



The Bulletin

The amenity society for
Putney & Roehampton

April 2013



Members' Meeting

Thurs 18 April 7.30pm

Brewer Building, St Mary's Church, Putney Bridge

Go Green at Home

It's been a long cold winter and the energy bills are piling up. Come and find out what you can do to reduce these *and* save the planet.

We have lined up a panel of expert Putney residents to explain.

Matt Warnes will talk about Putney's newest eco-home; James Page will explain solar energy and the Feed in Tariff; Conservation architect Natasha Brown will show that a traditional house can still be green; Laura Polglaze of EcoRenovate will talk about the Green Deal and other ways to fund it all, and Buildings Panel Convenor and Green Register member Andrew Catto will aim to fill any gaps.



VISIT TO FULHAM PALACE

We are organising a visit to Fulham Palace on Wednesday, 29 May at 2.30pm. This will be a guided tour looking at the history of both the building, the Bishop of London's country home for over 12 centuries, and the gardens.

Further details will be given in the next edition of the Bulletin, so please put the date in your diary.

Thank you.



Forthcoming Events: dates for your diary

Thursday 18	April	Members' Meeting, The Brewer Building, St. Mary's	7.30pm-9pm	(page 1)
Thursday 16	May	Talk by Lewis Carroll Society & Sue Rolfe	7.45pm	(below)
Thursday 30	May	Unveiling of blue plaque to Thomas Cromwell by Hilary Mantel		(below)
Wednesday 29	May	Visit to Fulham Palace	2.30pm	(page 1)
Wednesday 10	July	Putney Society Coach Outing	9.30am-6.30pm	(below)

Looking forward to summer!**Our Coach Outing—Watts Gallery & Clandon Park****Date: Wednesday, 10 July.****Time: 9.30am—approx. 6.30pm Ticket: £24.50 pp**

The Society's summer coach outing is on **Wednesday 10 July**. It will be a day of culture in the Surrey countryside. We will visit the lovely Watts Gallery in the morning and the National Trust country house, Clandon Park, in the afternoon - both near Guildford.

We set out at 9.30am from Gwendolen Avenue, by the Methodist Church, Putney.

The Watts Gallery, a 'national gallery in the heart of a village', is a purpose-built art gallery displaying the works of the great Victorian artist George Frederick Watts (1817 - 1904). The historic galleries have recently been extensively restored setting the collections in their original decorative schemes. G.F.Watts holds a unique position within British art and his portraits, landscapes and sculptures are dramatically displayed in the Gallery. There is an attractive café adjoining the gallery. See www.wattsgallery.org.uk for more details.



Clandon Park was built in 1730 for the 2nd Lord Onslow by Venetian architect Giacomo Leoni. The house is one of England's most complete examples of a Palladian

mansion. It contains a superb collection of 18th-century furniture, porcelain and textiles, mostly acquired in the 1920s by connoisseur Mrs Gubbay. The wider parkland, still owned by the Onslow family, surrounds the mansion set in intimate gardens. There is a Maori meeting house brought back from New Zealand in 1892. Adjoining the house, there is a shop and restaurant. See www.nationaltrust.org.uk/clandon-park/ for more details.

We set out for our return journey at about 5pm - getting back to Putney at around 6.30pm.

Tickets for the outing cost **£24.50**. This covers the coach (and a gratuity for the driver) and the entry fee to the Watts Gallery, with an introductory talk. For National Trust members, entry to Clandon Park is free. There is a charge of £7 for non-NT members.

For your tickets, please send a s.a.e. to: John Horrocks, 2 Angel Mews, Roehampton High Street, SW15 4HU, enclosing a cheque made out to: **The Putney Society**. Thank you.

**Two cultural events in May AND a new publication!**

Do take a look at the enclosed flier detailing the launch event on 16 May of the society's new publication: **'Literary Putney and its Environs 17th-21st Century'** published in conjunction with the Wandsworth Historical Society. The guide includes over 28 literary figures connected to Putney and its locality by living in it, writing about it.

Did you know that Charles Dickens was a regular visitor - as well as Lewis Carroll, and that Beatrix Potter found her inspiration for Peter Rabbit here? Fifty-six pages, colour illustrations and location map. It is hoped that the guide will encourage people to seek out some of the lesser known authors and find out more about them. The guide has been produced by Sue Rolfe, with contributions from Hugh Thompson.

Launch event Thursday, 16 May, 2013**(A Wandsworth Arts Festival event)**

Talk by Lewis Carroll Society & guide author Sue Rolfe 7.45pm, St Mary's Church, Putney, SW15 1SN. Wheelchair accessible. Free but booking essential.

E: rolfe.sue3@gmail.com**T: 07960097370** - only 100 tickets!

This is followed on **Thursday, 30 May** by the unveiling by **Twice Man Booker award-winner Hilary Mantel of our next blue plaque - to Thomas Cromwell. (A Wandsworth Heritage Festival event).**

Thomas Cromwell, great-great-great uncle of Oliver Cromwell became chief minister to Henry VIII. He was born around 1485 in the vicinity of Brewhouse Lane and executed at Tower Hill in 1540. We have no evidence of the exact location of Thomas Cromwell's father's house or hostelry, but sufficient references lead us to choose Brewhouse Lane as a suitable spot for the plaque.

Chesterton Humberts have kindly agreed to sponsor a reception which will be held at the newly opened Putney Pantry. Hilary Mantel has agreed to sign copies of her books: **'Wolf Hall and Bring Up the Bodies'**.

Booking essential for the reception - which will be ticketed - only 60 tickets available! **E: rolfe.sue3@gmail.com** or

T: 07960097370**Car boot sales at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton****Second Sunday of the month****Next sale 14 April and then 12th May****Vendors from 7.30 am. Buyers from 8.00 am****£10 a car £15 a large van.****£1 parking for buyers (proceeds to charity)****W: www.qmfriendedscarboot.co.uk**



News from the Panels:
 Members are invited to attend panel meetings and raise issues they feel need to be discussed. However, since space is limited in people's houses please contact convenor in advance.

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor: John Horrocks (020 8789 2956)

New broom for our parks

The borough council has announced that a new private contractor has taken over the maintenance of our council-owned public open spaces. **Quadron** has been given a £2.4M a year contract for the next 8 years. For more information on Quadron look up www.quadron.org.uk. They are already the contractors for a number of other authorities, including the Royal Borough of Kingston. The council is hoping to save a lot of money on our parks maintenance by contracting out the responsibility. This is something the Society's Open Spaces Panel will be keeping a close watch on.

Quadron say they are keen on community engagement. Their website says: "Consultation with local communities to establish their needs and views leads to better kept, more frequently used parks and open spaces and a safer environment".

The Open Spaces Panel will be contacting Quadron as a follow-up to our March walk-about visit to Wandsworth Park to discuss its maintenance. On a wet and cold Saturday morning, Society members braved the elements to tour round the Park, noting those matters we feel need to be followed up if the amenity of the park is to be enhanced. We are concerned that there are clear signs that the upkeep of Wandsworth Park does not meet the standards the council has set in Battersea Park. It would be useful to establish why this is so.

Watch this space!

Chalara - Ash die-back disease

There has been a lot of reporting on the threat to our Ash trees from this newly imported disease which is already being found on Ash trees in different parts of the country. No cases have yet been reported in our area but we need to be vigilant. The fear is that we may lose our Ash trees - in the way we lost our Elm trees in the 50s and 60s to Dutch Elm Disease. We need to learn a lot more about this new threat.

Some 5% of the trees on Putney Heath and Putney Lower Common are Ash - mainly self-sown trees. However, the proportion in our parks and private gardens is probably higher - mainly planted trees.

To see if your own Ash tree might have the disease, look at the Forestry Commission guide to symptoms: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara#Symptoms>

The Open Spaces Panel will be keeping a close watch on this issue, particularly when the Ash trees come back into leaf in early May. Please contact us if you have any evidence of Ash die-back in your locality.

Community Panel

Convenor: Victoria Diamond (07746 022654)

We attended the **MOPAC** (Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime) meeting, and filled out their complicated questionnaire. There are real concerns about what is happening within the **Police**. The budget cut of 20%, when in real terms it's only 14%, is rather drastic (£500m out of a budget of £3.6bn). It is feared this is too much and we will lose much in terms of local policing. The police would rather they 'come to us' than we go to them, as they say this is a better use of manpower. If you want to speak to a police officer face to face, **dial 101** (the new non-emergency number) and they will arrange a meeting. 999 is only for emergencies. The changes to SNT (Safer Neighbourhood Team) and how they will function will also be under scrutiny. The fact that they hope to implement all the changes by April is alarmingly quick and one wonders what time there will be for them to assess all the consultation documents. Time will tell whether or not the new plans will work.

We are liaising with Royal Mail re: the **Putney Post Office's** lack of a letter box! They will arrange an on-site visit to see whether a post box is feasible, but we will continue to keep an eye on the situation. There have also been suggestions that there be a crossing on the Upper Richmond Road to avoid people crossing this busy road willy-nilly. This is a Transport for London issue, and has been passed to our Councillors to see what can be done to improve the situation.

One O'clock Clubs are mostly closing. People are upset that the planned meeting for April/May was ignored, and the subject was 'snuck' on to the Agenda at the 11th hour. Five One O'Clock Clubs will be turned into nurseries, and the Battersea Park Club into a café. Bolingbroke, Windmill, King George's Park, Fontley Way, Coronation Gardens and Battersea Park One O'Clock clubs will all close for Stay and Play on 31 August. The 12 One O'Clock centre staff, all very experienced, will all be made redundant.

NEXT PANEL MEETINGS				
Buildings	April 10 May 8	Wed ditto	Sainsbury's, Werter Road	7pm
Transport	April 2 May 7	Tues	11 Werter Rd 9 Charlwood Rd	7.30pm
Open Spaces	April 4 May N/A	Thursday	71 Festing Rd	7.30pm
Community	April 11 May 9	Thurs ditto	6 Norroy Rd	8.15pm



Buildings Panel

Convenor: Andrew Catto (020 8785 0077)

“It’s not easy being Green” sang Kermit - but he didn’t belong to the Putney Society. Elsewhere in this Bulletin you will see details of the our Members Meeting on 18 April which will show you how to save energy and cut your fuel bills whilst being good to the planet. We have lined up the owner of Putney’s newest low energy house for inspiration, and a panel of experts on insulation, heating and renewable energy to show what you can do to follow this lead and even how to pay for it all. With the typical Putney house now well over 100 years old, there’s plenty of ways to save.

A concerted effort by Putney residents, rowers and local amenity societies (Thanks to the Wandsworth Society and Hammersmith Society for their contributions) have seen off at least a part of the proposal to massively enlarge Putney Pier, and obstruct our river views with rows of houseboats. There’s now a revised scheme with only one long pontoon. But just because it’s smaller, doesn’t mean it’s not still too big. So if you value the Putney Embankment, even if you didn’t comment before, please go on line to the council’s website at www.wandsworth.gov.uk and object now. Application number 2012/6004.

We are expecting to see the applications for the renovation of Elliott School, and for the new houses to be built on the land sold to fund this both to be lodged this month, as well as one from Roehampton University for building around the Georgian Downshire House. Watch this space.

Transport Panel

Convenor: Hugh Samuel (0208 788 3328)

Putney Station works are well underway and Spencer, the contractor, is proving very informative about plans and progress. On the other hand SWT are not being responsive to our queries on what is going to happen on the street side of the barriers. We will continue to press SWT for answers.

We understand that Justine Greening is pushing TfL for answers on when East Putney Station will get lifts. We will support her and campaign on this issue.

We also hear that WBC has commissioned a study into access to Putney Station from the Oxford Road end. We await the results with interest.

Brightside report that councillors are supporting Alex Gautier’s campaign for extension of the 22 bus route. Roehampton does not have adequate transport links, so the extended 22 would be a significant benefit. Alex is soon going to launch a website on which you can report

on the performance of buses. Watch this space for details.

LETTERS:

Sir,

When the garden city movement was gaining momentum about one hundred years ago, most houses were rented and this was expected to continue. The difference between ordinary developments and garden cities was that rents of the latter would be used to improve the houses and provide civic amenities instead of going to private landlords.

A welfare minister predicted that housing benefit would reach £25 billion a year by 2015 unless housing was reformed. Social housing as it is now managed is a failing business, only kept afloat by its owners—taxpayers.

The simplest way of turning it around would be for housing associations and councils to buy profitable housing as it comes on the market to subsidise their low rent stock.

If, from its inception, social housing had been managed in the way favoured by the promoters of garden cities, there would now be sizeable dividends to distribute among the owners.

First-time buyers could save theirs for deposits on a house and owners to improve the ones they are in.

The profits could also be used for civic amenities. Private housing could be brought by public bodies as it comes on the market to use as social housing and when it is amortised demolished to create new parkland.

Other improvements could be the separation of arterial from local traffic with bypasses alongside railways to create one corridor of disturbance instead of two. Most of the traffic could be removed from Putney High Street.

Proposals like this were first made by Ebenezer Howard a hundred years ago and by Colin Buchanan fifty years ago. They could be implemented now.

Peter Hutchinson.

Letters for Bulletin:

Please try and keep to a maximum of 150 words. By email to Bulletin Editor, or hard copy to Chairman, details page 6. Thank you.



Draft Minutes of the Putney Society Annual General Meeting held in the Brewer Building, St. Mary's Church Thursday 21 March 2013

PRESENT: Anthony Marshall (President), Carolyn McMillan (Chairman) along with 37 others.

The Chairman welcomed members to the AGM and asked the President to conduct the meeting.

Minutes of the 2012 AGM

The draft minutes were approved by the meeting. There were no matters arising.

Chairman and Executive Committee Report

The Chairman said it had been another very busy year with lobbying on several projects and responding to numerous consultations. The Buildings Panel had been active scrutinising planning proposals for schools in our area, and engaging with developers at pre-planning application consultations for larger developments. Our Community Panel installed a public notice board on the High Street and focussed on the changes happening within the NHS and reductions in policing. Transport Panel's campaign for improving the air quality in Putney High Street continued and wide lobbying resulted in the introduction of less-polluting buses on some routes. Open Spaces Panel monitored encroachments on our open spaces, loss of trees in construction projects, and planted trees in various locations. There have also been numerous popular social events, visits and members' meetings during the year. Communications with members and the wider public continue through the bulletin and website. The Chairman reported that two members of the Executive had stood down, namely Hugh Thompson and Martin Jubb, and both were thanked for their valuable contributions.

The Chairman confirmed that the Society was in a strong position to meet the challenges of the year ahead and thanked members for their support throughout the year.

The President thanked the Chairman and members of the Executive Committee for their work on behalf of members during the year. The Chairman, in turn, thanked Anthony Marshall for acting as President of the Society for the past 10 years.

Questions Arising from the Chairman's Report

The Society was asked to support a campaign to stop Tesco obstructing the passage of vehicles in the High Street with their huge delivery lorries especially at busy times and our Transport Panel agreed to take up the issue. A request to restore the Bulletin's letters page

was made and assurances were given that members' letters would be published in future issues when space allowed. A request was also made for the Society to devote more attention to matters of concern to Southfields residents, such as the campaign to save the local cinema. The Society would consider this in the context of agreeing where our geographic boundaries lay but in turn would seek more input at the Executive Committee level from members living there.

Accounts for the Year

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year. Income was well maintained, and expenditure was lower, even though major improvements were made in the website. Donations were larger than the previous year; the principal ones were to Headway, a charity, for the Jubilee stone in Church Square, and to the Putney Christmas fair. No questions arose from members concerning the accounts.

Election of President, Officers and members of the Executive Committee for 2013

President: John Ewing was elected as the Society's next President.

Six **Vice-Presidents** were re-confirmed as: Margaret Calcott-James, Angela Holman, John Horrocks, Beryl Jeffery, Derek Purcell, David Radcliffe, while Hugh Thompson was elected as our seventh Vice-President.

The following **officers** were elected for the coming year: **Chairman** Carolyn McMillan, **Treasurer** Richard Morgan, **Secretary** Judith Chegidden.

The **Executive Committee** were elected as follows: Jonathan Callaway, Victoria Diamond, Alexandra Gautier, John Horrocks, David Irwin, Mark Poulter, Sue Rolfe, Hugh Samuel, Andrew Simon.

Richard Chadwick was re-appointed as the Society's **Auditor**.

Any Other Business

A question was raised about attracting younger members and taking more steps to reflect their views in the policies the Society developed. The Chairman pointed out that significant progress had been made to appeal to younger members through the development of the website and the incorporation of a Twitter link.

There being no further AOB the meeting was formally closed.

Would any member present who has any disagreement with these draft minutes please contact the Chairman ASAP.



Thanks to Anthony Marshall, out-going President

Anthony stood down as President of The Putney Society at our recent AGM. Anthony has served the Society in a dedicated way for well over two decades. For a record period in the past he served as our Treasurer, keeping our finances under such careful and wise supervision that our accounts were always in good order. It was because of his always relaxed and convivial contributions to the Society's deliberations that he was marked out, ten years ago, to become the Society's President. In this important office, he has seen us cope successfully with challenges within the Executive Committee, and has conducted our Annual General Meetings and officiated at our dinners and Christmas lunches with charm and good humour. We all owe him a great debt and our sincere thanks.

And welcome to John Ewing, our new President



John was elected President of the Society at our recent AGM. John became Chairman of the Society some ten years ago, and he showed particular aptitude in running the Executive Committee. He will always be remembered for organising the crowded Society meeting held in St Mary's Church at which the developers that were proposing the 25 and 19-storey tower blocks for the Putney Place site opposite East Putney Station presented their scheme to us. Those developers got a resounding 'No Thanks' from everyone there. The meeting's message was clear - and the council then did the right thing and refused planning permission! That was probably the most successful public meeting the Society has ever held. We look forward to his tenure as the President of our Society

Goodbye

As the AGM approaches some members of our Executive decide to stand down from the Committee and as trustees of the Society. This year, we lost two members who no longer have the time in their busy lives to commit to their roles on the Committee. We are very sorry to be losing:

Hugh Thompson: who had been convenor of our Open Spaces Panel for 20 years, and latterly Deputy Convenor (which allowed him more time for travelling the world). We should acknowledge our debt to Hugh for engaging with issues affecting our Open Spaces for so long. He has planted trees and shrubs in various locations, tended them in dry weather, cleared up litter on the towpath, and arranged some delightful members' meetings (the one on hedgehogs springs to mind!). And there were the wry and amusing comments in the monthly reports for the bulletin. Keen on engraved masonry, he arranged for the installation of the Society's paving stone in Church Square to mark the Queen's Jubilee. A big thank you to Hugh, but you'll be glad to know we are not losing him entirely - he has just been elected as a Vice-President of the Society.

Martin Jubb: who has been on the Executive for 4 years in various roles, first as Secretary, and lately with more responsibilities in recruitment and on the financial side. But the long daily commute to work in Hertfordshire, work load and his role as sacristan at St Mary's Church has meant he can no longer commit time to the committee. We are sorry to be losing him

PUTNEY AND THE RIVER



An Exhibition of Paintings and Etchings

By **SUSANNAH NATHANSON** at **PUTNEY LIBRARY**

5-7 Disraeli Road SW15 2DR

Monday 8 - Friday 26 April 2013

An exhibition of new oil paintings and etching by Susannah Nathanson, a young, local artist, will be showing at Putney Library this April. Concentrating exclusively on Putney and the river, the exhibition presents a range of river scenes in and around the bridges of Putney, capturing a spectrum of moods and light seen at different times of the day and year.



Members wanted to engage on Facebook and Twitter



The Putney Society has been set up on both of these sites for some time; we however need a willing member or two to help.

If you are interested in working to expand the reach of The Society into the ether, please call Bob Bowmer on: 07793 296 733.

PUTNEY SOCIETY WEBSITE:

Don't forget that some issues are covered at greater length on our website. Address below.

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